

eMobility

The European Technology Platform for future networks

eMobility is the European Technology Platform for future networks including mobile and wireless communications as well as fixed networks. The mission of eMobility is to strengthen Europe's leadership in networking technology and services so that it best serves Europe's citizens and the European economy.



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eMobility was formed in 2004 by a group of leading industrial players, including mobile operators, equipment and component manufacturers, and content providers. The major goal was to bring together European organisations to address, as a community, the challenges of future networks, building on Europe's success in mobile communications.

Since its foundation, eMobility has received high interest, and the number of members has been growing to nearly 670 currently, of which 129 are from industry, 252 from the research domain, 257 are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and 28 are Cooperation members. eMobility supports activities and efficient collaboration aimed at enabling the network community to turn visions into innovations.

Evolution of networking technologies

According to recent predictions, there will be 50 billion mobile devices in the world by 2020. This development offers an unprecedented opportunity for creating new services and applications. Fixed broadband networks provide the backbone of mobile broadband communications. Both types of networks are

complementing each other. Sensor type networks and machine-to-machine communications will get increasing importance, which will require new networking paradigms. Information and communication technology (ICT) will increasingly be applied to solve societal challenges. Energy consumption in communication networks is becoming a major concern. eMobility is undertaking a number of activities in order to support European citizens and companies to benefit from these trends. All eMobility members are invited to participate in the various activities, and many of them use the opportunity to do so.

Activities of eMobility

Setting out a Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)

The eMobility expert group has defined a Strategic Research Agenda which addresses the future of mobile and wireless communications. This is done both from the technological perspective and from the view of the end user. It shows how the push from technologies can meet the requirements of the applications desired by the end user. This work involves stakeholders from the various application domains in the discussion, e.g. from the health sector, transport, or energy.

Organisation of workshops and other events

eMobility organises a number of events. The main event for eMobility is the annual General Assembly at which members meet and discuss about activities and which also gives a good opportunity for networking among members. Moreover, various workshops are organised, e.g., in the scope of developing the Strategic Research Agenda, or for the coordination of research project proposal preparation. Once a year eMobility organises events in an EU country, often in conjunction with the local eMobility platform as e.g. in Hungary in 2008 and Macedonia in 2009.

Influencing European and national research policies

Another important task is to provide input and feedback to documents and surveys issued by the European Commission, and to organise meetings with EU and national authorities. This is done in order to promote research directions and a positive environment for the mobile communications and networking sector in Europe.

Involving eMobility members and supporting their interests

This is a horizontal activity which goes across the various activities of eMobility. Mem-



bers elect the eMobility Steering Board and, thus, can decide upon who should best represent the community. Members are also invited to participate in surveys, e.g. on their priorities for the SRA and future research topics, or in surveys regarding the specific needs of SMEs. Active contributions from members in the eMobility working groups are always welcome.

Organisation and support of the platform work

The charter of eMobility is defined in a Governance Model. This foundational document defines the major bodies of the platform and its working methods and processes, including the rules for election of the

Steering Board. The various activities of the platform require a substantial amount of administrative support.

In order to provide it, an eMobility secretariat has been set up, which is in charge of membership administration, organising events, producing newsletters, maintenance of the eMobility web, mailing lists, and other tools. The EU financially supports these activities partly through a Coordination Action project.

Participate in the activities

The eMobility platform is open to all stakeholders who are interested in actively participating in the platform activities and to

those who just want to follow activities and get latest information from the sector. Full membership is limited to European organisations, but any organisation worldwide can apply for a Cooperation membership which includes all members' rights except voting and candidature for the Steering Board.

eMobility membership is free. Applications can be submitted through the eMobility website at www.emobility.eu.org.

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